

SERENA WILLIAMS Victorious Over Venus In Battle For Wimbledon Crown

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◀ **SERENA WILLIAMS** reacts after winning the Women's Singles final on the Centre Court at Wimbledon. She battled her equally talented sister **VENUS WILLIAMS** to win the championship **ON PAGE 52**.

Cover photo by Dave Caulkin/AP

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Florida Congresswoman Carrie Meek Announces Her Retirement

U.S. Representative Carrie P. Meek (D-FL), who helped bring national attention to charges that the rights of Black voters in Florida were violated in the 2000 presidential election, recently announced that she would not seek a sixth term in Congress.

"It has been a good fight," said Meek, who made the announcement at Miami's Mount Tabor Missionary Baptist Church. "It's time that I come home. There's much more for me to do here."

Meek, 76, said she planned to create a foundation that would work with people on educational and housing issues. Her youngest child, Florida state Sen. Kendrick Meek, 35, said he would run for his mother's seat in the upcoming election.

The granddaughter of a slave and former administrator for Miami-Dade Community College, Meek was elected to the state House in 1978. In 1982 she became the first Black woman elected to the Florida Senate. In 1992, Meek, Alcee L. Hastings and Corrine Brown became the first Black Floridians elected to Congress since Reconstruction.

Meek, who represents the heavily Democratic district in northern Miami-Dade County, ran unopposed in her last two campaigns, but she has struggled with health problems. Following the 2000 presidential election,



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◀ *U.S. Rep. Carrie Meek (D-FL) gets a hug from her son, Florida state Sen. Kendrick Meek, after announcing her plans to retire in December.*

Meek said that voters in her district, which is about 60 percent Black, had their rights trampled because of inadequate ballot instructions and roadblocks preventing them from voting.

George W. Bush beat Al Gore by just 537 votes in Florida. The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, which issued a report on Florida's election results, found that Blacks were nearly 10 times as likely as non-Blacks to have their ballots rejected.



◀ **DNC BLACK CAUCUS CONFERENCE:** Democratic National Committee (DNC) Vice Chair Lotti Shakleford (l), DNC Black Caucus Chair Commissioner Yvonne Atkinson Gates (c) and DNC member Marianne Spraggins (r) visit with businessman and basketball great Earvin "Magic" Johnson in Las Vegas during the DNC Black Caucus' recent African-American issues conference and retreat in the city. During the event, the Caucus highlighted the party's commitment to the Black community.



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Chairman John H. Johnson & CEO Linda Johnson Rice Speak At University Of Arkansas Commencements

JET and EBONY Publisher & Chairman John H. Johnson was commencement speaker and recipient of an honorary Doctorate of Laws degree at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville. The founder of Johnson Publishing Company, Inc., the world's largest Black-owned publishing company, told the 3,000 graduating students to be persistent as they go out into the real world and to not take no for an answer.

"You need to take a chance. People can only say no. You can't take no for an answer. You have to keep trying," he said.

Mr. Johnson is a native of Arkansas City, AR, who overcame great obstacles to become the most successful African-American publisher in history. He told the Class of 2002 that if he could overcome poverty and prejudice in the 1940s and achieve his level of success then they also had numerous possibilities. "If I could do it then, surely you can do it now," Mr. Johnson stated.

Later that day, Johnson Publishing Company President and CEO Lin-



▲ JET and EBONY Publisher & Chairman John H. Johnson receives the honorary Doctorate of Laws degree from University of Arkansas at Fayetteville Chancellor John White (far, r) and the President of the University of Arkansas System B. Alan Sugg.

da Johnson Rice was the commencement speaker for the Sam M. Walton College of Business at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville. Rice spoke before a capacity crowd and



◀ *Johnson Publishing Company President and CEO Linda Johnson Rice speaks to the graduating class of the Sam M. Walton College of Business and encourages them to be the best they can be to achieve career success.*

encouraged the graduates to achieve career success by employing what she called the "Be Attitudes" of Success. Rice's principles included encouragement to "Be Indispensable...Be Bold...Be Truthful...and Be Relentless."

▼ **LINKS MEET IN CHICAGO:** Johnson Publishing Company President & CEO Linda Johnson Rice recently hosted a luncheon at JPC headquarters in honor of The Links, Incorporated while in Chicago for their 33rd Annual National Assembly. Mrs. Rice (rear, 3rd, l) greeted International President Dr. Barbara Dixon Simpkins (rear, 3rd, r), and other members of The Links, Inc. Executive Council including (front, l-r) Patricia Russell McCloud, Immediate Past President; Marion Sutherland, 10th Past President; Pauline Ellison, 6th Past President and (rear, l-r) Vivian Pickard, Corporate Linkages Chairman and GM Corporate Relations Director; Regina Frazier, 9th Past President; Dr. Gladys Vaughn, National Vice President; and Miriam Muley, GM Director of Marketing & Sales to Women. General Motors co-hosted the luncheon with Johnson Publishing.



Michael Jackson Calls Music Labels Racist



▲ Superstar Michael Jackson, who has accused the music industry of being a racist conspiracy against minority artists, arrives at New York's Webster Hall to accept an award from his fan club celebrating his 30 years as a solo recording artist.

Superstar Michael Jackson, already feuding with his record company, accused the music industry of being a racist conspiracy that turns profits at the expense of performers, especially minority artists.

"The record companies really, really do conspire against the artists—they steal, they cheat, they do everything they can," Jackson said in a rare public appearance in New York. "Especially against the Black artists."

Jackson, 43, who began his recording career as a child, spoke at the Rev. Al Sharpton's National Action Network in Harlem. Sharpton and famed attorney Johnnie Cochran Jr.

recently formed a coalition to investigate whether artists are being financially exploited by record labels (JET, July 1).

Jackson, who records for Sony Music, also singled out Sony Chairman Tommy Mottola, calling him "mean, racist and he's very, very devilish." Jackson also accused Mottola of using "the n-word" when speaking about an unidentified Black Sony artist.

In a statement, Sony Music categorized Jackson's comments as "ludicrous, spiteful and hurtful. It seems particularly bizarre that he has chosen to launch an unwarranted and ugly attack on an executive who has championed his career...for many, many years."

The statement also said that Sony is "appalled that Mr. Jackson would stoop so low in his constant quest for publicity."

Jackson's last album, *Invincible*, has sold below par, despite a reported estimated \$25 million in promotional efforts. The singer's fans say Sony didn't do enough to market the album. Other music industry observers say the sagging sales indicate Jackson's declining appeal.

Jackson mentioned several Black artists as victims of the industry, including James Brown, Mariah Carey and the late Sammy Davis Jr.

"If you fight for me, you're fighting for all Black people, dead and alive," Jackson said, adding: "We have to put a stop to this incredible injustice."

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Deloris Jordan Named To Advisory Council Of The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration

Deloris Jordan, president of the James R. Jordan Foundation and the founder/president of De'Laro, Inc./Family First, has recently been appointed as a member of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) National Demand Reduction Advisory Council by DEA Administrator Asa Hutchinson.

Jordan, the author of *Salt in His Shoes*, is also the famous mother of basketball superstar Michael Jordan.

The DEA's Demand Reduction Program, created in 1986, is currently the premier agency for domestic enforcement of the federal drug laws



Deloris Jordan

and has sole responsibility for coordinating and pursuing U.S. drug probes abroad.

The goals of the DEA's Demand Reduction program are: to provide timely, accurate and persuasive information to a variety of audiences in order to build support for effective drug enforcement; to educate the public about the dangers of drugs and the effects of drug abuse on the nation and to reach community leaders, parents, teachers, counselors and employees in the workplace in order to educate them about implementing drug prevention and education programs.

CRIME

Live-In Girlfriend Kills Mate And Hides Body In Closet, Police Charge

A Norristown, PA, woman, who claimed she had "gotten sick of" her son's father and his attitude, allegedly shot him in the back of the head and left his plastic-wrapped body decomposing in a basement closet before admitting to killing him, police said.

Nancy Kay Austin, 38, reportedly told police she shot Samuel "Sam" Monroe at their well-kept, small, single family home in May in a fit of jealousy and rage following a scathing argument the day before allegedly caused by the discovery of another



Sam Monroe

woman in Monroe's life. That statement has led her to be held without bond on charges of first- and third-degree murder, abuse of a corpse, placing a false missing-person report, possession of an instrument of crime and related offenses.

She killed him, according to authorities, because they often went to sleep with their anger only to wake up to mornings of domestic disputes. Those disputes, during which she alleges Monroe "severely beat" her, prompted Austin to purchase a .357 Ruger pistol, police said.

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CRIME

According to police, Austin claims that on the morning of the murder, Monroe "just woke up in a bad mood" and "started arguing about anything." Fearing for her life, she pulled a recently purchased gun from under the couple's bed and pointed it at him, she reportedly told police. When Monroe stoically acknowledged the weapon by rolling over in bed, Austin said she became enraged. "He had turned away [and] as he was rolling over, he started to close his eyes. I was angry. He would not listen to me. For four years, I was scared of him and he would not listen..." she reportedly told police.

However Monroe's friends gave a different account of his character than his live-in girlfriend and moth-

er of their 20-month-old son.

One neighbor described Monroe, who reportedly had multiple sclerosis, as a "beautiful person," while co-workers at Montgomery County Emergency Services at the Norristown State Hospital told police that it was Austin who inflicted harm on Monroe during domestic squabbles. Shortly after Monroe's death, Austin reported him missing.

After two months without any leads, police asked for and were granted a search warrant for the couple's home. They found him-wrapped in fly-covered plastic in a basement closet.

"I guess we solved a missing-person case and a homicide in the same day," Norristown Chief of Police Russell J. Bono said with a sigh.

Gen. Benjamin O. Davis Jr., First Black Air Force General, Dies At Age 89



◀ *Gen. Benjamin O. Davis Jr., the commander of the famed all-Black Tuskegee Airmen, recently died at age 89.*

Gen. Benjamin O. Davis Jr, the commander of the famed all-Black Tuskegee Airmen during World War II and the first Black general in the U.S. Air Force, recently died at Walter Reed Medical Center in Washington, D.C. He was 89.

Gen. Davis was the son of the U.S. Army's first Black general, Benjamin O. Davis Sr.

Davis Jr., was the first Black cadet to graduate from West Point in the 20th century and one of the first Black pilots in the military.

A native of Washington, D.C., Benjamin Oliver Davis began his military career during the era of seg-

▼ *Davis, a U.S Air Force pioneer, was one of the first Black pilots in the military. He commanded several units, including the all-Black Tuskegee Airmen during World War II.*





▲ President Clinton and Gen. Davis' sister, Elnora Davis McLendon, pin stars on him during 1998 historic White House ceremony in which Clinton advanced Davis to the rank of Four-Star General. Gen. Davis served with distinction and honor in the U.S. Air Force until his retirement in 1970.

regation and led a unit that was credited with a major role in bringing about integration of the armed services in the years after World War II.

Throughout his career he battled racism and once recalled how Whites did not believe Blacks had the intelligence or courage to be pilots.

Gen. Davis said, "All the Blacks in the segregated forces operated like they had to prove they could fly an airplane when everyone believed they were too stupid."

He revealed the pressures he and his fellow Tuskegee Airmen went through in his autobiography, *Benjamin O. Davis Jr.: American*. "We would go through any ordeal that came our way, be it in garrison exis-

tence or combat, to prove our worth. Our airmen considered themselves pioneers in every sense of the word."

In 1941, President Franklin Roosevelt demanded that a Black flying unit be created. Davis was assigned to the first training class at Tuskegee Army Air Field in Alabama and in 1942, he won his wings after completing the highly competitive course.

He went on to command the Tuskegee Airmen and became the first Black general in the U.S. Air Force in 1954.

Davis also led the much larger Black unit, the 332nd Fighter Group which escorted bombers on 200 air combat missions over Europe during World War II. They were said to have

never lost any of the planes that relied on them for support.

He attended the University of Chicago and later entered the U.S. Military Academy in 1932, after being sponsored by Congressman Oscar De Priest of Chicago, who was the only Black member of Congress at the time, the New York Times reported.

Davis recalled how no one would speak to him or room with him during his four years at West Point.

"Living as a prisoner in solitary confinement for four years had not destroyed my personality nor poisoned my attitude toward other people," he wrote in his autobiography.

"I had even managed to keep a sense of humor about the situation when my father told me of my many supporters, the many people who were pulling for me, I said, 'It's a pity none of them were at West Point.'"

Davis rose above the racism and graduated 35th in a class of 276, becoming only the fourth Black graduate in West Point's history.

The Tuskegee Airmen's courageous performance is credited by historians for helping to prompt President Harry Truman integrate the armed forces, starting with the Army Air Force.

Truman signed the executive order for the integration of the armed services in 1948 and Davis helped draft the blueprint on integration that went into effect the next year, the New York Times recently recalled.

"Today, there are about 4,000 Black officers in the Air Force, almost six percent of the total," said Alan Gropman, a department chairman at the National Defense University who has done extensive research on the Tuskegee Airmen.

"Davis can claim the largest portion of the credit for opening the doors to Black men and women."

In 1970, after he retired from the Air Force, Davis was put in charge of the federal sky marshal program designed to stop airline hijackings. The following year, he was named an assistant secretary of transportation.

Davis left the Air Force as a lieutenant general with three stars and was the senior Black officer in the armed forces. President Clinton advanced Davis to a full general in 1998, awarding him a fourth star.

In awarding him the distinction, Clinton said, "General Davis is here today as living proof that a person can overcome adversity and discrimination, achieve great things, turn skeptics into believers and through example and perseverance, one person can bring truly extraordinary change."

Clinton added: "To all of us, General Davis, you are the very embodiment of the principal that with firm diversity we can build stronger unity. If we follow your example we will always be a leader for democracy, opportunity and peace."

He is survived by a sister, Elnora Davis McLendon of Washington. His wife, Agatha died earlier this year.

Legendary Bass Player Ray Brown Dies at Age 75



▲ Jazz bass player Ray Brown, one of the founders of bebop, is shown in a 2001 file photo during a performance at the Jazz Off Beat Festival in Basel, Switzerland. Brown died in his sleep at age 75.

Ray Matthews Brown, a legendary jazz bassist who played with such greats as Dizzy Gillespie, Charlie Parker, Oscar Peterson and his former wife Ella Fitzgerald, died recently. He was 75.

Brown, a technically accomplished bassist and one of the founders of bebop, died in his sleep in an Indianapolis hotel where he was finishing an engagement at the Jazz Kitchen during the conclusion of a U.S. tour.

Born in Pittsburgh in 1926, Brown started his music career on piano but later switched to bass as a member of his high school orchestra. After graduating he moved to New York in 1945 where he was immediately involved in the emerging bebop revolution.

At age 19 the bassist was hired without an audition to join Dizzy Gillespie's experimental big band that included Charlie Parker, Bud Powell and Max Roach.

In 1946 Brown's bass talents were featured when he played with Gillespie on the classic recordings *Night in Tunisia* and *Emanon*.

He married renowned vocalist Ella Fitzgerald in 1947 and later formed his own trio to tour with her. Brown became the singer's musical director and they continued to work together even after their divorce in the early 1950s.

In 1952 Brown became a founding member of producer Norman Granz's Jazz at the Philharmonic. The trio ranked among jazz's most popular groups in the 1950s and critics' and readers' polls constantly voted Brown as the top bassist during that decade.

Brown's most recent recordings included *Live at Starbucks*, *Superbass 2* and his latest released in June, *Some of My Best Friends are...Guitarists*.

The innovative musician made his home in the Sherman Oaks area of Los Angeles, CA. He is survived by his wife Cecilia and his son Ray Brown Jr., of Hawaii, who is the adopted son of Brown and Fitzgerald.

Five Ways To Reduce Your Risk Of Stroke

Prevention is the best way to fight stroke, a condition caused by a lack of oxygen to the brain that can lead to severe paralysis, vision and speech problems, even death (see “What Blacks Need To Know About Stroke” on page 22).

While some stroke risk factors are uncontrollable—you are at higher risk if you're age 55 and older, male, Black or have a family history of stroke—health experts say that risk factors like high blood pressure, smoking, obesity and physical inactivity can be reduced with simple lifestyle changes. The following tips can help you dramatically cut your risk of stroke:

• **Control high blood pressure and diabetes.** High blood pressure is the most important risk factor for stroke, the American Stroke Association informs. Diabetes also increases your stroke risk, and people with diabetes often have high cholesterol and are overweight, two risk factors for stroke. If you have high blood pressure or diabetes, work with your doctor to control your blood pressure, cholesterol and insulin levels.

• **Quit smoking, limit alcohol and avoid drugs.** Cigarette smoking nearly doubles your risk of stroke and excessive drinking (more than one drink per day for women; more than two per day for men) and drug abuse carries a high risk of stroke, medical experts warn. Don't smoke, limit alcohol intake and avoid all illicit drugs.

• **Develop healthy eating habits.**

Foods high in saturated fat and cholesterol increase your risk of developing fatty deposits in your blood vessels—deposits that can block arteries and trigger a stroke. Cut your stroke risk by eating more fruits and vegetables, which are high in vitamins and low in calories, fat and cholesterol. And add more lean meat, poultry and fish, whole grains and low-fat dairy products to your diet. Reduce extra fat in foods by baking, broiling and grilling instead of frying, and limit junk foods, which can be full of fat, sugar and salt.

• **Be active.** Thirty minutes a day of moderate physical activity can keep your weight under control and reduce your risk of health threats like stroke.

• **Get informed.** Knowledge is your best weapon in the fight against stroke. The Department of Health and Human Services offers an Internet site at www.healthfinder.gov that can direct you to information on stroke, including the American Stroke Association (www.StrokeAssociation.org or call 888-4-STROKES) and the National Stroke Association (www.stroke.org or call 800-STROKES).

But don't stop there. Participate in community health fairs, which provide health screenings and have health care professionals on hand to answer any medical questions you may have. And talk to your doctor about steps you can take to reduce your risk of stroke.

This Week In Black History



July 18, 1863—

► **Sergeant William H. Carney**, performed a heroic act that earned him the Congressional Medal of Honor for bravery in action on this day during the Civil War. He became the first Black soldier to receive this honor. A member of the 54th Massachusetts Colored Infantry, his citation stated that when the color sergeant carrying the flag was shot down, during a charge on Fort Wagner, SC, Carney grasped the flag, led the way to the parapet and planted the colors therein. When the troops fell back, he brought out the flag under fierce fire during which he was twice severely wounded. Carney was later presented the Medal of Honor for outstanding devotion to duty on May 23, 1900.

July 19, 1979—

► **Patricia Roberts Harris** was appointed on this day by President Jimmy Carter to her second Cabinet position as secretary of health, education and welfare. Her political and academic careers boast a series of firsts: She was the first Black woman to become an ambassador, appointed to Luxembourg by President Lyndon Johnson in 1965. As dean of Howard University Law School in 1969, she became the first Black woman to head a law school. In 1977, she became the first Black female member of a presidential Cabinet with her appointment as secretary of housing and urban development, also during the Carter administration. She was a professor at George Washington University when she died of cancer in 1985 at age 60.



Diabetes: Simple Steps Can Cut The Risk Of Acquiring The Mysterious Disease

Diabetes is a disease in which the body does not produce or properly use insulin, a hormone that is needed to convert sugar, starches and other food into energy needed for daily life.

Some 16 million Americans have diabetes, but experts say at least a third don't know it. And Blacks comprise about 2.8 million of the nation's diabetics and are 1.7 times more likely to have the disease than Whites.

While the cause of diabetes is a mystery, there are simple steps you can take to cut the risk of acquiring it or give you the ability to live normally with the disease if it is detected early in its progression.

There are two major types of diabetes—type 1 and type 2. Type 1 diabetes often occurs in children and young adults. More than 1 million Americans have type 1 (juvenile diabetes). People with type 1 diabetes must take daily insulin injections to stay alive. Type 1 diabetes accounts for 5 to 10 percent of diabetes cases.

Type 2 is the most common form of the disease and accounts for 90 to 95 percent of diabetes cases. Type 2 diabetes is nearly epidemic due to an increased number of older Americans who have the disease.

Medical research reveals that both genetics and environmental factors such as obesity and lack of exercise

appear to play roles in the progression of the disease. Unchecked, diabetes can lead to blindness, heart disease, renal failure and amputations.

And doctors now have proof that exercise and change in diet which leads to weight loss can dramatically cut millions of Americans' chances of getting diabetes, and it doesn't take a starvation diet or running a marathon.

Walking and dropping, on average, 15 pounds helped people with a very high risk of getting diabetes cut those odds by 58 percent, according to a recent study by the National Institutes of Health.

Most of the people in the study walked as a form of exercise and ate 1,200 to 1,800 calories a day. They cut fat consumption to 25 percent of daily calories, often by choosing baked chicken over fried and seasoning vegetables with lemon, not butter.

Dr. James R. Gavin III, chair of the African American Program for the American Diabetes Assn., tells JET Blacks should, "Stay away from meats heavy in fat, like pig tails, untrimmed roast and pork chops. You must develop sensible eating habits by having well-balanced meals and avoiding the extreme of being too high in fat content and too high in simple sugar content."

Gavin adds that with exercise, proper changes in diet and medication—if required—diabetics can control the disease.



Dr. James R. Gavin



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What Blacks Need To Know About Stroke

Strokes can strike in an instant. One moment you're laughing with friends over a game of Bid Whist, reading your favorite magazine on the bus ride home or settling in your bed for the night. The next moment, one side of your body suddenly goes numb, your head starts pounding and your vision gets blurry. You try to talk, but can barely speak. You try to move, but you can't. You feel weak, disoriented and scared.

Having a stroke can be a very frightening experience. Stroke affects about 600,000 people in this nation each year, and claims nearly 170,000 lives annually, many of which are African-American. In fact, Blacks ages 35 to 54 are four times more likely to die of a stroke than Whites in the same age group, according to a government report.

But even more chilling is the fact that so many of us know so little about stroke—the nation's No. 3 killer—and even less about recognizing the symptoms or preventing one in the first place. A recent national survey conducted by the American Stroke Association found that only 1 percent of Americans are worried about stroke, largely due to lack of knowledge.

Strokes are also quite costly. Health experts say stroke costs the United States \$30 to \$40 billion per year, including hospitalization and rehabilitation costs and employment wages lost by stroke victims and their caretakers. With numbers like those,

you cannot afford the luxury of ignorance when it comes to this health epidemic.

Save your life and the lives of those you love by learning as much as you can about stroke.



◀ *Dr. Jeffrey T. Harris, an Alabama neurologist, says Blacks need to take control of their health to prevent strokes.*

■ WHAT IS A STROKE?

A stroke is simply a lack of oxygen to the brain.

The brain, like every organ of the body, needs oxygen to function. Blood carries oxygen to the brain, but when something stops the blood and the oxygen from reaching any part of the brain, that area of the brain stops working. If that area controls muscle movement, speech, vision or memory, that body function will be impaired, which explains the paralysis, vision and speech problems and memory loss that often accompany a stroke.

Dr. Jeffrey T. Harris, assistant professor of neurology at the University of Alabama at Birmingham's Huntsville campus and director of the stroke program at Huntsville Hospital in Huntsville, AL, explains that the lack of oxygen to the brain

could be caused by a blood clot breaking off from somewhere else in the body and traveling to the brain, or from scar tissue inside arteries “making them act like Velcro so that debris like cholesterol and nicotine sticks to artery walls and forms a blockage, like silt in a water pipe.”

“Once that pathway gets too narrow, no blood will get through, and there’s your stroke,” he says.

Most strokes are caused by blocked arteries in the brain, but in some rare instances, strokes can be caused when a blood vessel abruptly bursts in the brain, causing bleeding in the brain (hemorrhage). Blood vessels can rupture due to a defect in the vessel present since birth, because of high blood pressure or because of severe head trauma.

If a blood clot, errant debris or ruptured vessel prevents brain cells from getting blood for more than a few minutes, then those cells will die. And unlike other cells of the body that can regenerate, such as liver and skin cells, once brain cells are gone, there’s no coming back.

■ WHAT ARE THE WARNING SIGNS OF STROKE?

“The hallmark of a stroke is that it happens suddenly,” informs Dr. Harris. “Other conditions, like diabetes, can do something similar to stroke in which they rob you of certain neurological functions—you get weak, numb or have tingling on one side of your body, or your vision is affected—but they do so over weeks, months or years. Stroke happens—bang!—sud-

denly. One second you’re normal, the next second you’re not.”

Telltale signs of a stroke are sudden numbness, weakness or tingling in the face, arm or leg, especially on one side of the body; sudden confusion, inability to talk or difficulty speaking or understanding; sudden trouble with walking, dizziness, loss of balance or coordination.

Stroke symptoms also include difficulty with swallowing, loss of bowel and bladder control, trouble seeing in one or both eyes, or double vision, severe headache with no known cause and loss of consciousness.

■ WHY IS STROKE SO SEVERE IN BLACKS?

African Americans are more likely to have a stroke and die of stroke than Whites. The reason for the higher incidence, experts say, probably has less to do with genetics, and more to do with our lifestyles and economic status.

“We haven’t found a gene that’s only in Blacks but not in other races that causes us to have strokes,” Dr. Harris informs, “so we can’t say with any type of certainty that we have a higher incidence of strokes solely because we are Black.”

However, Dr. Harris informs that Blacks are more likely to have a stroke and die from it because of other risk factors that are highest in African Americans versus other populations. Risk factors which he attributes to a “larger scale problem.”

“We have a higher incidence of high blood pressure, diabetes, smok-

ing, high cholesterol, heart disease, heart attacks,” he says. “The reasons for those conditions, to date, are part of a larger scale problem. They’re related to poor access to health care, poor health education and social-economic status. We don’t understand why we have to take the medications. We don’t have the money to afford the medication and we don’t have the money to afford the appropriate, healthy diet.

“And the fact that many African Americans are in the working poor to very poor class increases the incidence of smoking, alcohol use and drug abuse, which all lead to stroke in one shape, form or fashion.”

■ WHAT DO YOU DO IN CASE OF A STROKE?

If you suspect a stroke, especially if you are experiencing any of the warning signs (sudden onset of numbness or weakness on one side of the body, speech changes or vision changes), it is crucial to get to the hospital immediately. The sooner you can receive treatment, the better your chances of avoiding long-term disability or death.

“Get to the hospital as soon as possible because we can deliver a medication called a clot buster that may be able to minimize the damage of the stroke,” Dr. Harris informs. “If you get there within three hours, the clot buster has the best chance of improving your chances of recovery.”

Call an ambulance and make yourself comfortable while you wait for the paramedics to arrive. Don’t

try to eat or drink anything, or take any medication, including aspirin, since you may have trouble swallowing. Although aspirin is often prescribed by physicians to prevent stroke, medical experts say that it only works if it’s had time to build up in your system. Taking aspirin while you’re having a stroke won’t help.

If a friend or relative is the one having a stroke, try to gather any prescription medications that person may be taking. This information can aid paramedics and physicians in treating a stroke victim.

All strokes require careful observation, especially in the first 24 hours. At the hospital, blood tests, electrocardiograms (ECG) to check your heart, chest x-rays and brain scans usually are performed to determine if you’re having a stroke and identify whether the cause is a blood clot or ruptured artery. Also, any medical problems that may have triggered the stroke will be treated.

■ HOW LIKELY IS RECOVERY?

Recovery from a stroke depends on how much brain tissue is affected. “If the stroke is not lethal, everybody will get better,” Dr. Harris assures. “A full recovery, however, is mainly dependent on the size of the stroke. If the stroke is the size of a pinhead, your likelihood of recovery is far greater than if the stroke is the size of one-half of your brain.”

Age is also a determining factor in recovery. Although stroke can strike at any age, “the younger you are, the more adaptable your brain is to recov-

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er from a stroke," Dr. Harris says.

Most stroke sufferers will have to undergo some form of rehabilitation, which may consist of physical therapy to regain muscle strength, occupational therapy (re-learning how to eat, dress and groom yourself) and speech therapy if you have problems talking or swallowing. The extent of rehabilitation depends on the severity of the stroke and could last several weeks to several months after you leave the hospital.

Prevention, by far, is the best way to treat stroke. Take responsibility for your health by eating healthy and exercising, eliminating unhealthy habits like smoking and heavy drinking, and keeping conditions like high blood pressure and diabetes under control. And by educating yourself.

Dr. Harris, a volunteer spokesperson for the American Stroke Association and a major advocate of stroke awareness, says that Blacks need to ask health care providers questions about their health, and keep asking until the information is made clear to them.

"The trick with getting the answers is to make certain you get answers you can understand," Dr. Harris says. "The doctor may spit out all these technical terms and you may not understand them. So you say, 'Hey, that just went over my head. Come down to my level and talk to me. I'm not stupid, but I'm not a doctor. I don't understand your language. Put it in English, not in medical terms.' That allows you to take control of your health."

—NICOLE WALKER

The Warning Signs of STROKE

Stroke is the No. 3 killer in the nation, claiming nearly 170,000 lives each year. The hallmark of a stroke is that it strikes suddenly, so knowing the warning signs can save your life and the lives of loved ones.

Symptoms of STROKE are:

- Sudden numbness, weakness or tingling in the face, arm or leg, especially on one side of the body
- Sudden confusion, trouble speaking or understanding
- Sudden trouble with walking, dizziness, loss of balance or coordination, difficulty swallowing or moving arms and legs
- Sudden severe headache with no known cause
- Sudden trouble seeing in one or both eyes, or double vision
- Sudden loss of bowel and bladder control
- Sudden loss of consciousness



in the SPOTLIGHT



Ice-T Lays Down Law On TV Drama 'Law & Order: Special Victims Unit'

Don't mess with Ice-T. He has his bases covered as a performer.

As a pioneering rapper in the early '80s, he won a following with music lovers as a forefather of the gangsta rap genre. Today he is winning a loyal following each week by portraying the street-smart Det. Odafin Tutuola on the popular NBC drama "Law & Order: Special Victims Unit."

During the early '90s, Ice-T was one of the first rappers to successfully make the transition from rapping into acting. He's been consistently lauded for his fine perfor-

mances in law enforcement roles since his breakthrough movie debut in 1991's *New Jack City*.

That's pretty ironic considering in 1991 the Black heavy-metal band he formed, Body Count, was noted for the controversial song *Cop Killer*. It could have melted Ice-T's career, but it didn't.

He has a Grammy Award under his belt, a place in history as a rap pioneer and an acting career that continues to keep getting stronger. His film credits include *Ricochet*, *Trespass*, *Johnny Mnemonic* and *Judgement Day*. His TV credits

have included "New York Undercover," and "Players," a drama he helped develop.

On the acclaimed drama "Law & Order: Special Victims Unit," Ice-T's character's unique sense of humor and investigative skills are matched against those of his partner, Det. John Munch (Richard Belzer).

In addition to rapping and acting, Ice-T also has penned a book *The Ice Opinion*.

The candid rapper, actor and author, who is open about his views on the entertainment industry, has also given 10 university lectures across the country.



▲ **Happy You're Mine:** Vance Alain Vaucresson pledged his eternal love by wedding Julie Elza Frederick at St. Frances Cabrini Catholic Church in New Orleans, LA. The bride is a graduate of Xavier and Notre Dame Universities. She is the president of Preferred Management and Development, Inc. The groom is a graduate of Morehouse College. He is the president and CEO of Vaucresson Sausage Company.



▲ **Symphony Of Love:** Erica Nicole Casteel and Jamie Jeffery Gillin wed at the Renaissance Hotel in Dallas, TX. The bride is graduate of the University of Tulsa. She is a systems analyst for Methodist Hospitals of Dallas. The groom attended the University of Tulsa. He is a juvenile officer for Dallas County. The couple celebrated their union by honeymooning in Maui, Hawaii. They will reside in Dallas, TX.



◀ **Joyful Spirits:** Adua Kinch became the wife of Wayne Dunwoody at the St. Lawrence Gap, Christ Church, in Barbados, West Indies. The bride is a site and connectivity representative for IBM World Trade Corporation, Barbados. The groom is a senior network engineer-manager, Florida A & M University. He is also an NAACP President, Perry Branch, in Perry, FL.



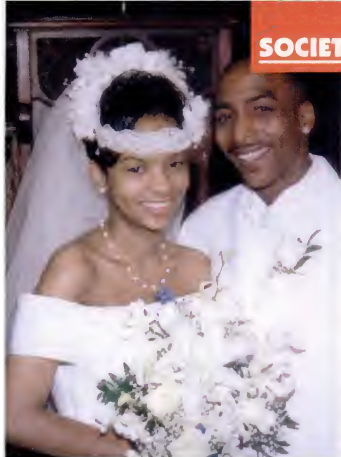
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▲ **Still The One:** Vincent Butler joined in holy matrimony with the former Tenneka Criddel at the Cosmopolitan Church in Chicago. The bride is a full-time student at DePaul University where she is pursuing a degree in human resources administration. She is also a graduate of Olive Harvey College. The groom is a letter carrier at the U.S. Postal Service. The couple makes its home in the Windy City.



▲ **Destined To Be:** Carl A. Brown married Tammie King at the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit in Decatur, GA. The bride is an employment and training specialist at the Decatur & DeKalb Housing Authorities. The bridegroom works as a teacher at McClarin High School. They are both graduates of McNeese State University. The newlyweds will reside in Atlanta after honeymooning on a cruise to the U.S. Virgin Islands.



◀ **Joy To Be With You:** Mr. and Mrs. Peter Small of Henderson, NC, commemorated 50 years of marriage with family and friends by renewing their vows at St. James Missionary Baptist Church in Henderson. Mrs. Betty Small is a retired nurse's assistant. Her devoted mate of five decades is the head of maintenance at assisted living facilities. The Smalls have three children and three grandchildren.

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Chris Rock And Wife, Malaak, Become Parents Of A Daughter



◀ *Chris Rock and his wife, Malaak Compton-Rock, recently announced the birth of a daughter, Lola Simone, in New York. This is the couple's first child.*

include *Down To Earth*, *Nurse Betty*, *Lethal Weapon 4*, *Boomerang* and *New Jack City*. His works also include the Emmy Award-winning "The Chris Rock Show."

Compton-Rock is executive director of Style Works, a nonprofit organization that she founded in 1999 as a support service for former welfare dependents who want to work but don't know how to present themselves at interviews or in office environments.

Famed comedian-actor Chris Rock and his wife, Malaak Compton-Rock, have a lot to smile about. The two recently became the parents of a beautiful baby girl.

Compton-Rock gave birth to Lola Simone in New York. Both mother and daughter are doing fine.

Chris and Malaak wed in Oxon Hill, MD, in 1996 after dating for three years. This is the couple's first child.

Rock's latest movie is the comedic thriller *Bad Company* with Anthony Hopkins. Film credits for Rock



Vivica A. Fox Files For Divorce From Husband, Sixx-Nine

Actress Vivica A. Fox is seeking a divorce from her husband of almost four years, according to a petition which was filed recently in Superior Court.

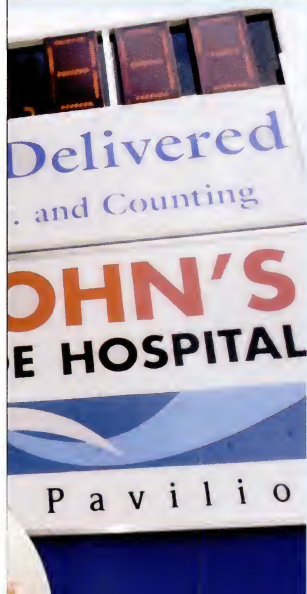
Fox married singer Christopher "Sixx-Nine" Harvest in December 1998. It was an "amicable split," Fox's manager, Lita Richardson, told JET.

Fox is currently starring in the film *Juwanna Mann*.

Fox's other film credits include *Two Can Play That Game*, *Why Do Fools Fall In Love*, *Soul Food*, *Set It Off* and *Independence Day*.



▲ Shown in happier times, Vivica A. Fox and husband, Sixx-Nine, said their pending divorce would be amicable.



◀ **THREE MORE ON THE WAY:** Patricia Daye, chief operating officer of St. John's Riverside Hospital in Yonkers, NY, sits with her hands on her belly in front of an electronic tote board that will tally hospital's births as St. John's prepares to reach a milestone of 100,000 births, with their first being delivered more than 130 years ago. Daye, pregnant with triplets, plans to add three to the tote board sometime in September. St. John's Riverside Hospital has been providing quality health care for the communities of Yonkers and southern Westchester since 1869.

J.C. Watts, Nation's Only Black Republican In Congress, Says He Won't Seek Fifth Term

Rep. J.C. Watts of Oklahoma, the lone Black Republican in Congress and a member of the House GOP leadership, announced he won't seek re-election later this year.

Watts, 44, said he wanted to spend more time with his family but had no immediate job plans. He has also told Republicans that he is tired and needs to make more money for his family.

"It has been a wonderful ride. It has been a wonderful journey. Of course, the work of America is never done, but I believe my work in the House of Representatives at this time of my life is completed," Watts said at a news conference in Norman, OK, where he was a football star for the University of Oklahoma before entering politics. "For me personally, serving in Congress has been more than an honor. It has been one of the most exhilarating



▲ Rep. J.C. Watts (R-OK) announces that he will not seek re-election later this year. Watts, who was first elected to a House seat in 1994, was the only Black Republican in Congress and a member of the House GOP leadership.



▲ Congressman Watts, who in 2000 accompanied by his family, wife, Frankie, and children Jennifer (rear), Julie and Trey, announced he would seek re-election to a fourth consecutive term in the House of Representatives, recently said he was retiring from his seat, in part, to spend more time with them.

experiences in my life. Aside from achieving the great objectives that were laid out in my first campaign, my tenure in Congress has been marked by moments of enormous—enormous personal satisfaction and achievement.”

Watts was first elected to the House in 1994 and joined the leadership four years ago, in the fourth-ranking position of chairman of the House Republican Conference.

He occasionally complained that he was not included enough in leadership decisions. And recently the congressman, a member of the House Armed Services Committee, express-

ed concern that President Bush did not communicate with him about the administration’s plan to kill the Crusader artillery system. The \$11 billion artillery system was to be assembled at a planned facility in Elgin and training was to be conducted at Fort Sill, part of Watts’ district.

Bush, Vice President Cheney and other Republicans had lobbied Watts to stay in Congress, as did Rosa Parks, whose refusal to give up a seat on a bus in Birmingham, AL, in 1955 was pivotal in the civil rights struggle. “If you can, please remain as a pioneer on the Republican side until others come to assist you,” she wrote.

"I am glad I stayed in my seat."

His departure could give Democrats an opportunity to pick up a seat in the battle for control of the House this fall.

Watts is the second member of the House GOP leadership to announce retirement plans, joining Majority

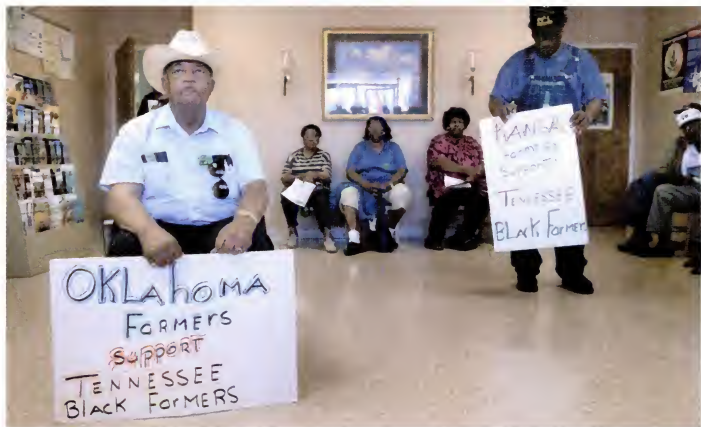
Leader Dick Armey (R-TX).

And within minutes of the announcement, a race broke out for his leadership post. Reps. Deborah Pryce of Ohio and J.D. Hayworth of Arizona declared their intention to seek the job, and other contenders were possible.



◀ **SERVING A FIFTH TERM:** Sharpe "The Real Deal" James (l) is sworn in as mayor of Newark, NJ, during his recent inauguration ceremony at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark. James, who is also a state senator and the first elected mayor to serve five terms in the city's history, is joined by his wife Mary (c) and his mother Beulah James Fluker. He began his fifth term as mayor of New Jersey's largest city by promising to attack urban problems including drugs, street crime and auto theft. James also challenged residents to solve their own problems. "Government is not a cure-all," he said. "Government cannot stop those who litter, commit crimes of passion, steal a car, break and enter into a business or residence. And government cannot raise your children. If we are a family, we need to call the police less and start calling

more mothers and fathers who created life and must accept the responsibility of raising their own children." Since taking his duties as mayor, James has created over 30,000 new jobs and seen a 52 percent reduction in crime.



▲ Vernon Breckenridge (l), of Hennessey, OK, and George Hildebrandt, of Leavenworth, KS, protest inside the U.S. Department of Agriculture district, in Brownsville, TN. Black farmers claiming bias in federal crop loans staged a sit-in that shut down the USDA office.

Black Farmers Claim Discrimination In Federal Crop Loans

A group of nearly 300 Black farmers, claiming discrimination in federal crop loans, recently staged a sit-in protest and quietly shut down the U.S. Department of Agriculture office in Brownsville, TN.

The protest centered on claims that led to a multimillion dollar settlement three years ago of a class-action lawsuit brought by Black farmers from across the country.

Protesters said that settlement has failed to stop unfair treatment and the government has been slow to process loan applications from growers who were counting on the money to plant this year's crops.

The angry farmers first held a rally outside the small USDA office and then they poured inside, sitting in the

lobby, at desks and taking over a conference room. Most of the staff went home. Some of the protesters remained at the office past closing time and spent the night there. Authorities reported no injuries in the building's takeover.

"They were very nice," said Gary Grant, a North Carolina farmer and president of the Black Farmers and Agriculturalists. "They had been very accommodating...We didn't come to use the bathroom and the water fountain. The men came for their money."

As the protest continued Grant received a letter from Secretary of Agriculture Ann Veneman who promised a new investigation into the complaints.

In 1999, the USDA settled a class action lawsuit brought by African-American farmers who said they had been denied loans by regional bureaus when White farmers had not

been. As of February, the agency had paid more than \$615 million on slightly less than half of the 22,600 claims filed, according to statistics posted on the agency's Web site.

Under terms of the settlement, farmers who could show some evidence of discrimination were entitled to \$50,000 each and had outstanding loans forgiven. An additional \$12,500 was to be sent to the Internal Revenue Service in the name of each

farmer to cover the federal income taxes that he or she would owe on the settlement (JET, Dec. 13, 1999).

Over the years, the lawsuit said, loan rejections to African-American growers, which often came under catastrophic conditions, led to massive losses, foreclosures and, ultimately, the loss of farms. In 1920, there were 925,000 Black farmers, according to USDA and Census records. Today, there are about 15,000.

▼ **NEW YORK'S APOLLO THEATRE TO UNDERGO COMPLETE RENOVATION:** Derek Johnson, president and CEO of the Apollo Theatre Foundation, stands on the world famous Apollo stage with the Tree of Hope, one of the Apollo Theatre's most famous fixtures, in New York. Johnson is leading the historic Harlem theater through a total renovation in an effort to transform the 90-year-old facility into a major cultural and performing arts center. The first phase of the initial \$50 million in renovations is under way, beginning with exterior repairs to the Apollo's famous marquee and restoration of the original marble and granite work on the building's facade. Beginning in January of 2003, the Apollo, which has hosted stars such as Sammy Davis Jr., Nat "King" Cole, Count Basie, Duke Ellington, Billie Holiday, Aretha Franklin and the Jackson Five, will be closed for eight months for internal renovation. During that phase of renovation, the trademark Amateur Nights will go on a 35-city tour, including stops in Tokyo and London.





▲ **CHEESECAKE FOR EVERYONE:** Soul singer Brian McKnight (c), who was the opening entertainment act at the recent Taste of Chicago food fest, cuts Eli's Cheesecake's giant 500-pound cherry cheesecake to celebrate Taste of Chicago's and Eli's Cheesecake's 22nd birthday. Joining in the celebration are (l-r) Maureen Schulman, director of public relations for Eli's Cheesecake; Marc Schulman, president of Eli's Cheesecake; Jim Law, director of special events for the city of Chicago, Bill Dove of United Airlines; and Tiffany Green, WGCi Radio assistant program director/ music director. After cutting the cake, McKnight sang "Happy Birthday" to the crowd and the cake was served free to the public. Eli's Cheesecake made its public debut at the first Taste of Chicago in 1980. The event, which features scores of Windy City eateries, is held annually in Chicago's Grant Park and is the country's largest food festival.

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■ **FRIENDLY GREETING:** Actress Jada Pinkett Smith, wife of superstar actor-rapper Will Smith, holds their son, Jaden, as she is greeted by model Sheree Zampino during the premiere of Will's new movie, *Men In Black II*, at Mann's Village Theater in California. Zampino, a former co-host on BET's "Oh Drama," is Will Smith's ex-wife and the mother of his oldest son, Trey.

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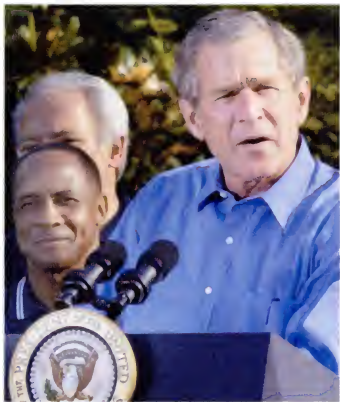
■ **FOLLOWING IN MOM'S FOOTSTEPS:** Famed soul singer Chaka Khan gives her daughter, Indira Milini, a hug following Indira's rousing performance at the Sugar Bar in New York. A talented songwriter, Indira was a founding member of the former girl group Pretty in Pink.



Bill Jones

■ **A FATHER & SON OUTING:** Rapper turned actor, LL Cool J, spends some quality time with his son, Najee, during the premiere of *Men In Black II* at Mann's Village Theater in Westwood, CA. The Grammy Award-winning artist will star in the soon-to-be released romantic comedy *Deliver Us From Eva*.

Football Star Lynn Swann Named To Head President Bush's Fitness Council



Emmitt Smith



Lloyd Ward

◀ *Ex-Pittsburgh Steelers great Lynn Swann (l) leads President Bush's initiative on improving Americans' health.*

Pro football Hall of Famer Lynn Swann recently was named chairman of the President's Council on Physical Fitness in Sports.

Swann, who joined the Pittsburgh Steelers in 1974, where he remained for nine years as a wide receiver, is a sportscaster for ABC Sports.

President Bush named twenty new members to the council during the White House Fitness Expo on the South Lawn. While introducing Swann, Bush said, "Lynn Swann, a friend and a football legend, will be the chairman of this council. He is committed to using the platform to make America a healthier place by encouraging individual responsibility.

"These fine Americans will serve as role models and will join me in working with Americans to encour-

age exercise and healthy choices in life."

Bush's Healthier US initiative aims to motivate Americans to increase personal fitness and become healthier to avoid disease related to obesity. As part of the initiative, Mr. Bush signed an executive order directing federal agencies to develop policies to promote fitness as well.

According to the Department of Health and Human Services, overweight among children and teens has doubled in the past two decades and nearly tripled for adolescents in the same time span.

Also, the cost of overweight and obesity to the economy is \$117 billion annually in direct and indirect medical costs.

Other Blacks in the appointed group of athletes, doctors and executives were Dallas Cowboys running back Emmitt Smith and Lloyd Ward, CEO of the United States Olympic Committee.

No Blocking For Emmitt Smith At Vegas Comedy Roast Hoasted By Shaq



Though not used to being hit while running past opponents on the gridiron, Dallas Cowboys' elusive running back Emmitt Smith didn't complain when he recently took several comic hits from friends.

Smith, NFL's future Hall of Famer, was the guest of honor at the "Shaquille O'Neal Comedy Roast II" at Las Vegas' MGM Grand EFX Theatre. An all-star roster teamed up for the 90-minute grilling of Smith that raised money for several charities.

The star-studded roast is the brainchild of three-time NBA cham-

▲ Dallas Cowboys running back Emmitt Smith was the guest of honor at the "Shaquille O'Neal Comedy Roast II," a fundraiser at the MGM Grand EFX Theatre in Las Vegas. Smith will begin his 13th season just 540 yards away from claiming Walter Payton's career rushing record.

► Comedian/actor Jamie Foxx watches as Lakers star Shaquille O'Neal is lowered to the stage during the comedy roast. The event was a fund-raiser with proceeds going to charities selected by O'Neal and Smith.



SPORTS

► Comedian Michael Colyar, one of the roasters for the evening, floats atop the sellout crowd during the star-studded event.

pion Shaquille O'Neal. The Los Angeles Lakers center and NBA Finals MVP offered himself as the roastee in the inaugural gala last year that took place during the NBA All-Star Game in Washington, D.C. He created the events as a vehicle to raise funds for

▼ Former Cowboys wide receiver Michael Irvin (l), comedian Dick Gregory (c) and former Cowboys coach Jimmy Johnson share laughs about Smith at the celebrity roast.



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various charities.

"This year, we're going to pay special homage to a courageous running back who will offer himself as a gauntlet, to be roasted by a host of celebrity friends calling themselves roasters," O'Neal said. "Or you could say the reverse—a host of celebrity roasters calling themselves friends."

The comedians that joined for the friendly ribbing in front of a sellout crowd were Jamie Foxx, Michael Colyar, Joe Torry, Guy Torry, Mo'Nique, Dick Gregory and Jeff Ross.

Smith, who will begin his 13th season this fall and has rushed for more than 1,000 yards in each of the past 11 seasons, needs just 540 yards to top Walter Payton's all-time rushing record. But Smith wasn't stopped in his tracks, as he just laughed along with jokes poking fun at his new commercials and his size compared to the 7-foot-1 O'Neal.

Both Smith and O'Neal work full-time during the off-season fundraising for different organizations and foundations.

"It's great to see someone like Shaq as committed to raising money for charity as I am," Smith said.

Beneficiaries of the weekend extravaganza include Smith's personal cause, The Open Doors Foundation, an organization that was established to empower America's underserved youth to achieve, and Kidz Education Experience Program (K.E.E.P.) of Los Angeles. The goal of K.E.E.P. is to help and direct inner-city youth to attain college degrees.

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- closeup photo of your face
- full-length swimsuit photo as follows:
two-piece bikini (women)
one-piece swimsuit (full-figure)
brief-cut swim trunks (men)
- fashionable photo in suit or dress

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EOE



▲ Kareem Abdul-Jabbar (r) head coach for the Oklahoma Storm, accepts the United States Basketball League Championship Trophy for defeating Kansas 122-109 for its first USBL championship. Recently, the NBA hall of famer and the team owner reached a "mutual decision" that Abdul-Jabbar would end his involvement with the team.

Abdul-Jabbar Wins USBL Championship As Coach Of Oklahoma Storm; Leaves Team

Days after coaching the United States Basketball League's (USBL) Oklahoma Storm to its first league championship, basketball legend Kareem Abdul-Jabbar left his job as head coach of the team.

The NBA Hall of Famer and team owner James Sears Bryant reached a "mutual decision" on the parting, a team spokesman said.

Abdul-Jabbar, who helped the Los Angeles Lakers win six titles in the 1980s, said when he became coach of the Storm earlier this year, he wanted to pursue a career in coaching and felt the job would be good experience.

After beating Kansas 122-109 for the title at Mark Price Arena in Enid, OK, Abdul-Jabbar expressed his gratitude for the start on a new career path.

"Being able to help these guys do what they want to do, to get them noticed; I am honored and thankful for it," the 55-year-old NBA all-time scoring leader said. "When I played in the playgrounds of New York I wanted to win, that was important. It doesn't matter where you are. It doesn't matter what level you are in, winning is a great accomplishment and is gratifying."



▲ *Serena Williams was victorious over her older sister Venus to capture tennis' most coveted major, the Wimbledon championship. Serena won straight sets 7-6 (7-4), 6-3.*

Serena Williams Victorious Over Venus In Battle For Wimbledon Crown

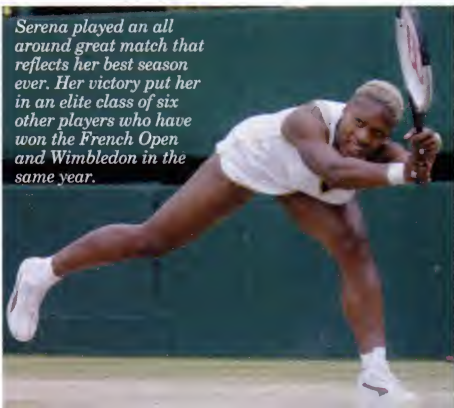
The Williams Sisters have taken the tennis world by storm.

Just recently Venus and Serena battled it out for the Wimbledon title, tennis' most coveted championship. Who would have guessed that Venus, the two-time defending Wimbledon champ and No. 1 Women's Tennis Association (WTA) ranked player would be dethroned by her little sister Serena?

She was. Kid Sis has grown up.

Serena captured her second straight Grand Slam event by beating Venus on Centre Court in Wim-

Serena played an all around great match that reflects her best season ever. Her victory put her in an elite class of six other players who have won the French Open and Wimbledon in the same year.





▲ *Serena is congratulated by her big sister and best friend after winning her first Wimbledon singles title and the family's third in three years.*

bledon, England, 7-6 (4), 6-3.

I really wanted Wimbledon," Serena said. "I wanted to become a member of a club with so much prestige, so much history. I wanted to be a part of history."

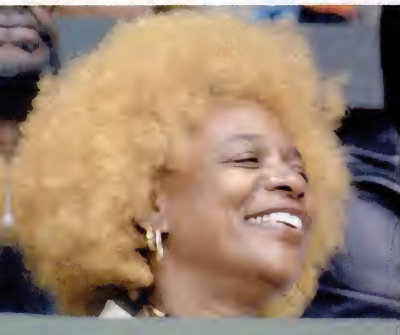
Though both sisters admit to lackluster performances when playing each other, this ninth meeting of their pro careers (Venus up 5-4), and third Grand Slam title matchup (Serena up 2-1) in 10 months featured more stel-



◀ *Two-time Wimbledon champion Venus lost both sets and had more double faults than Serena.*



▼ The sisters' mother, Oracene, attended the match to cheer on her daughters. Serena has beaten her sister three straight times, twice in Grand Slam events.



◀ The younger Williams was serving at speeds of 100 mph. This powered her to her second-straight Grand Slam. Venus (above) expresses disappointment after dropping a point to her sister during their Wimbledon women's singles final match on the Centre Court in England. Below, Serena covered her face in amazement after she made her historic mark at Wimbledon.





◀ After the final, Serena took over the No. 1 world ranked spot, which moved Venus to No. 2, marking the first time siblings held the top ranks.

lar shots and eagerness to win. This was the best match the two have played against each other.

"It was really fun," said Serena, who beat Venus for the French Open title last month (JET, June 24). "We were really serving and returning. Venus was running down balls. I was running down a lot of balls too. It was a good match to watch."

In the Wimbledon final, Serena had more winners and Venus had more double faults. When the best friends met in the U.S. Open last September, Venus won despite only seven winners. In the French Open final, they both combined for 101 unforced errors in Serena's first Grand Slam victory against her sister.

Holding their Wimbledon trophies, Serena (l) stands at the winner's circle with Venus. The singles final was the first between siblings at Wimbledon since the very first edition in 1884.





▲ *The 20-year-old Serena didn't lose a match en route to her Wimbledon victory, including her dominant performance over semi-final opponent Amelie Mauresmo (inset) of France, 6-2, 6-1.*

However, like all other matches between the two, they seemed to try to block out the idea of facing a sister. They avoided eye contact, and for the most part avoided celebrative fist-pumps on the court—emotions both express against every other opponent.

Serena, at 20, 15 months younger than her sister, turned her back to Venus after key points and Venus' changeover chair faced a baseline, her back to Serena's chair.

Venus, gracious in defeat, kept a classy attitude and said someone had to lose. After the match Venus said the loss wasn't all that bad because at least the trophy is in the family and

she gets to look at it.

"She was just tremendous today," said Venus, her 20-match winning streak at the All England Club over. "There wasn't a lot between us. Just on some of those points, she was getting some that I couldn't get."

In the first set, each Williams was at the top of her game. They traded powerful strokes and dueling grunts from baseline, while aiming for the lines. Venus' double faults were her downfall and Serena took the first set.

The second set was less spectacular, and was pretty much over in the sixth game, when Venus double faulted to give Serena a break point, then put a forehand into the net to make it 4-2.

Serena ceded the next game with four errors (she totaled 25, Venus 22), but she broke to 5-3 and served out the match.

Venus competed with a sore right shoulder and recorded serves at 67 mph, which was quite out of character for the four-time major champion who regularly tops 100 mph. She stretched it during the last changeover and after the match.

"I noticed it. Definitely," said Serena who won the family's first major title at the 1999 U.S. Open. "If I'm a competitor, I'm going to have to notice it. Unfortunately, it's like a war out there. If there's a weakness, someone's going to have to be attacked."

Spectators of the attack didn't know which Black sister to cheer for. The audience was quiet and by the

The dynamic duo stormed through the doubles matches and won the championship in straight sets.



end of the final, they chose their favorite.

The match ended on a return into the net, Serena dropped her racket by the baseline, and went to the net where Venus draped an arm around her shoulder. Venus, whose body language and expressions reflected her disappointment, sat down and let Serena soak in the spotlight and stand-

ing ovation.

The title was Venus' to lose and Serena took advantage of Venus' mistakes. Serena is playing her best season ever. She didn't drop a set en route to her first Wimbledon championship, has won a season-best 19 straight matches, and is 36-3 with a tour-leading five titles in 2002.

Adding to the fire and legitimizing

► *The sisters celebrate with their trophies after winning the Wimbledon doubles championship. This was their second doubles victory at Centre Court in three years.*



their duels as some of the best tennis play in the world, for the first time Serena is No. 1, taking the top spot from her Big Sis and relegating her to the No. 2 spot. This news before the Wimbledon final stunned Serena.

"No one said anything to me, so I really wasn't looking at the points. I just thought I was a little farther behind. I was really excited. Shed a few little tears. I'm a real emotional person. It's just a goal of mine. It feels really great," Serena said.

Venus became No. 1 for the first time on Feb. 25, taking the top spot from Jennifer Capriati. She's held it three times since then, each time switching with Capriati.

A day after the sisters played each other for the singles title, they united to govern the doubles championship. Venus and Serena won their second Wimbledon doubles title in three years by beating Paola Suarez and Virginia Ruano Pascual 6-2, 7-5.

They broke serve at love to wrap

up the match with the same type of power that marked the first set of their singles match the day before.

Venus hit a booming forehand that Pascual mis-hit. Love-15. Serena smashed a backhand from the baseline that forced Pascual into a backhand error into the net. Love-30. Venus hit a backhand winner down the line, love-40. Back to Serena, who hit another stinging forehand.

The match was over.

The Williams Sisters have dominated the tennis world, seizing seven of the past 12 Grand Slam titles. They have brought a whole new audience and wave of popularity to the sport, while setting a new standard for today's female athlete.

"We've had a great past six weeks," said Venus. "But we realize that doesn't make a career. We want to just keep our level up, at this level that we're playing now, and also to improve. We have plenty of time in the future to savor it."



◀ Venus takes a photo of her sister and mother, Oracene Williams, at the Champions' Dinner at the Savoy Hotel in London. Serena says she's delighted about her recent win because it makes her "a part of history."

Actor Mekhi Phifer And Costume Designer Ruth E. Carter Honored At American Black Film Festival

► Famed actor-filmmaker Robert Townsend served as a co-host at the recent American Black Film Festival in South Beach, FL. Townsend later was pleasantly surprised with a Career Achievement Award-Male for his outstanding work in the film industry throughout the years.

Mekhi Phifer and Ruth E. Carter recently were honored at the Sixth Annual American Black Film Festival (ABFF) during its ABFF Awards Show.

The event, presented by Lincoln, was co-hosted by actor-filmmaker Robert Townsend and "Access Hollywood" co-anchor Shaun Robinson at the Jackie Gleason Theatre in South Beach, FL.

Actor Mekhi Phifer received the ABFF Rising Star Award. Famed actor

► Jeff Friday (r), ABFF executive producer, and superstar comedian-actor-humanitarian Chris Tucker (c) congratulate actor Mekhi Phifer and noted costume designer Ruth Carter upon receiving the Rising Star and Career Achievement-Female awards respectively.





▲ Byron Lewis Sr. (2nd, l), American Black Film Festival Founder and Chairman, congratulates Townsend along with (l-r) "Access Hollywood" co-anchor Shaun Robinson, and Tucker, who presented Townsend with his honor. Robinson co-hosted the ABFF with Townsend.

Delroy Lindo presented Phifer with the honor.

Phifer's work includes the TV movies *A Lesson Before Dying*, *The Tuskegee Airmen*, *Brian's Song* and *Carmen: A Hip Hopera*. His film credits include *Clockers*, *O* and *I Still Know What You Did Last Summer*.

Oscar-nominated costume designer Ruth E. Carter received the Career Achievement Award-Female for her contribution to the world of costume design and motion pictures. Filmmaker John Singleton and actress Sanaa Lathan presented Carter with her honor.

Carter's work has included costume design for *Amistad*, *Malcolm X*, *Mo Better Blues*, *Crooklyn* and *What's Love Got To Do With It*.

Townsend was surprised with the Career Achievement-Male award for his work. He has worked on such TV movies as *10,000 Black Men Named George*, *The Natalie Cole Story* and *Little Richard*. His other works include "The Parent Hood," *Meteor Man* and *The Five Heartbeats*.

The Riff, directed and written by Mark Allen, and starring Antonio Fargas and Nia Peebles, won the Lincoln Filmmaker Trophy Award. The

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▲ Actor-comedian-filmmaker Keenen Ivory Wayans (l), who presented *Townsend* with an honor along with Tucker, is joined by Lewis, Tucker and Friday in celebrating a successful sixth year of the film festival. In previous years the event was held in Acapulco.

HBO Short Film Award went to *Quest To Ref*, directed and written by Benjamin Watkins, who also appeared in the film. *Civil Brand*, directed by Emmy winner Neema Barnette, won the Blockbuster Audience Award for Best Feature Film. The Audience Award for Best Performance by an Actress went to Monica Calhoun for her work in *Pandora's Box*. Clifton Powell won the Audience Award for Best Actor for Best Performance by an Actor for his work in *Civil Brand*.

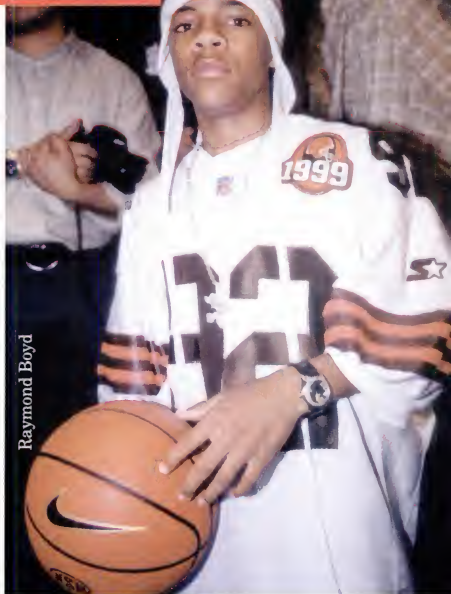
The ABFF was formerly known as the Acapulco Black Film Festival. It is the premier international event dedicated to creating opportunities for emerging filmmakers and ack-

nowledging the innovative work of independent filmmakers and industry pioneers. The five-day festival features independent films, panels, workshops and entertainment. It also features acclaimed filmmaker Bill Duke's Actors Boot Camp. More than 35 films, including eight world premieres, will be presented from more than 260 feature length and short film entries.

Founded by Byron E. Lewis Sr. in 1997, the mission of the ABFF is to redefine, discover and honor artistic excellence in Black cinema.

Past honorees have included Denzel Washington, Halle Berry, Morgan Freeman, Pam Grier, Debbie Allen and John Singleton.

► **BOW WOW KEEPS BUSY:** Teen rap sensation Bow Wow holds a basketball during an in-store appearance to promote his new movie, *Like Mike*, at Niketown on Chicago's Magnificent Mile. The NBA basketball fantasy marks Bow Wow's first feature film starring role. The movie, about an orphan who finds a pair of magical sneakers that he believes were once owned by basketball great Michael Jordan, opened solidly at No. 3. At JET press time, the film had taken in \$20.1 million since premiering. The movie co-stars Morris Chestnut. Bow Wow has been even busier than ever lately. His second U.S. tour, *Scream 2*, kicks off July 25 in Memphis and will travel until September 29. The tour features co-headliners B2K and IMX. Bow Wow's sophomore album, *Doggy Bag*, includes the tunes *Thank You* and *Take Ya Home*. It has sold more than 1 million copies since its release earlier this year. He also appears on the soundtrack for *Like Mike*. The first single from the album is a remake of rap pioneer Kurtis Blow's classic *Basketball*.


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11. WATERMELON, CHICKEN & GRITZ

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12. SOUTHERN HUMMINGBIRD

Tweet (The Gold Mind)

13. B2K

B2K (Epic)

14. BAD COMPANY

Various Artists (Hollywood)

15. FULL MOON

Brandy (Atlantic)

16. ECSTASY

Avant (Magic Johnson)

17. PAIN IS LOVE

Ja Rule (Murder Inc.)

18. WORLD OUTSIDE MY WINDOW

Glenn Lewis (Epic)

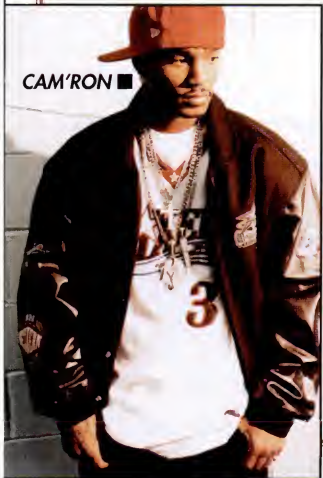
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Donald Faison on "Scrubs," (Thursday, July 18 at 8:30 p.m., ET) on NBC.

Wayne Brady on "Whose Line Is It Anyway?" (Friday, July 19 at 9 & 9:30 p.m., ET) on ABC.

Roger Aaron Brown/John Amos/Lynn Thigpen/Sean Patrick Thomas on "The District," (Saturday, July 20 at 9 p.m., ET) on CBS.

Courtney B. Vance on "Law & Order: Criminal Intent," (Sunday, July 21 at 9 p.m., ET) on NBC.

Hattie Winston/Alex Desert on "Becker," (Monday, July 22 at 9:30 p.m., ET) on CBS.

Alicia Mangram, M.D./Billy Gill M.D. on "Houston Medical," (Tuesday, July 23 at 10 p.m., ET) on ABC.

Richard T. Jones on "Judging Amy," (Tuesday, July 23 at 10 p.m., ET) on CBS.

Damon Wayans/Tisha Campbell-Martin/George O. Gore II/Jennifer Nicole Freeman/Parker McKenna Posey on "My Wife And Kids," (Wednesday, July 24 at 8 & 8:30 p.m., ET) on ABC.

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